

## Can't Halt Drug Misuse, FDA Says

By PATRICK J. SLOYAN

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The head of the Food and Drug Administration said Thursday he was at his wit's end to prevent misuse of a potent antibiotic that has caused several deaths. The problem, he said, is "What can be done to protect you from your doctors?"

Commissioner James L. Goddard testified before a Senate subcommittee looking into the misuse of chloromycetin, which has caused blood disorders resulting in some of the most painful deaths known to medicine.

Noting that the FDA had done all it could under existing law, Goddard complained:

"I'm at my wit's end for doing what must be done," Goddard said. "What it comes down to, in bald terms, is: what can be done to protect you from your doctors?"

"Shocking," responded Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis., chairman of the Small Business sub-

committee which is looking into the sale of the Parke, Davis Co. drug that has been on the market for 20 years.

The FDA says the drug should be used only for serious infections like typhoid fever. But Goddard said that most of it was used to treat acne, colds and other minor ailments.

Goddard disclosed Thursday that the FDA is issuing a new warning to all doctors and hospitals cautioning against improper use of chloromycetin.

The new warning, he said, lists leukemia as one of the possible side effects. The main effect discussed by other witnesses was aplastic anemia, a disease affecting the body's ability to produce new blood.

"I can't tell you that this new warning is going to do any good," Goddard said.

The current chloromycetin warning, Goddard said, "is probably the strongest drug warning that exists, yet it doesn't work."